

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 26 of the present application are currently pending. Claims 1, 2, 7, and 12 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The Office has indicated that claims 3 – 6, 9, and 12 – 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants note that claim 12 has been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error. Specifically, the range in values for the variable “n” which was originally described as “from about 1 to about 15” has been amended to read “from about 0 to about 15”. Support for this amendment can be found in the original Specification on page 5, first full paragraph.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

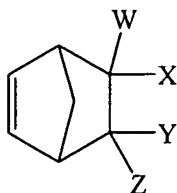
The Office has rejected claims 1 – 2, 7 – 8, 10 – 11, 15 – 20, and 22 – 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,855,477 (Hatakeyama) and also by US 6,864,037 (Hatakeyama). Specifically, the Office states that the Hatakeyama references disclose a polymer comprising a monomer structure that reads on the claims indicated above.

Applicants do not concede that the Hatakeyama patents are prior art to the invention as now claimed and specifically reserve the right to swear behind this patent. However, applicants assert that the claimed invention is nevertheless patentably distinct over the disclosures of the Hatakeyama patents for the reasons indicated below.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to bridged-cyclohexene compounds having at least one fluorine atom that is not a cyclic member, provided that a member of the cyclic ring is not bonded to a single 1,1-trifluoromethyl-1-hydroxyl moiety having an

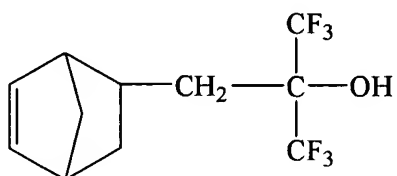
unsubstituted alkyl chain where the remaining cyclic members are bonded to hydrogen.

That is, claim 1 is directed to compounds having the formula:



wherein if W, X, and Y are hydrogen, Z is not a 1,1-trifluoromethyl-1-hydroxyl moiety having an unsubstituted alkyl chain. Claims 2 and 7 have been amended to be consistent with claim 1, upon which they depend.

In view of this amendment, applicants assert that claim 1 is not anticipated, or even suggested, by the Hatakeyama patents, and particularly not by Hatakeyama's teaching of a monomer comprising a 1,1-trifluoromethyl-1-hydroxyl moiety having an unsubstituted alkyl chain as represented by the formula:



Since claims 2 – 14 are dependent on claim 1, applicants assert that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Applicants further assert that, in view of the present amendments to claim 1, claims 15 – 24 are likewise not anticipated, or even suggested, by the Hatakeyama patents and therefore, they are in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

The Office has rejected claim 21 as being obvious in view of Hatakeyama (US 6,855,477 or US 6,864,037) and further in view of US 6,770,419 (Khojasteh).

Specifically, the Office asserts that sensitizers are well known in the art as an optical additive.

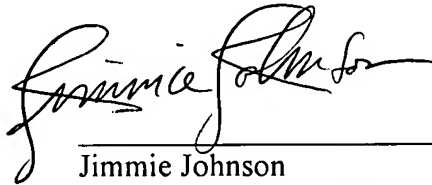
Applicants respectfully traverse the Office's rejection because, as shown above, the polymers of claim 15 are not taught, or even suggested by, the Hatakeyama patents, and thus there is nothing in the cited references that would teach or otherwise suggest a photoresist comprising these polymers (i.e. claim 18). Since the photoresist of claim 18 is nonobvious in view of the cited references, claim 21, which depends from claim 18, is likewise nonobvious.

CONCLUSION:

For at least the reasons indicated above, applicants believed the claims of application to be in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. The Office is invited to contact the undersigned counsel in order to further the prosecution of this application in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jimmie Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

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